

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 5, 2007 (the "Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

The Office Action contends that Applicants' response filed March 5, 2007, is "considered incomplete" since "Applicants have not provided the mapping of claims as requested by the Examiner in the previous Office Action [mailed October 2, 2006]." *See Office Action*, Page 3. Applicants respectfully disagree. First, the Office Action mailed October 2, 2006 does not include any request whatsoever for Applicants to provide any mapping of any claims. Furthermore, Applicants are not required to provide any such mapping under any laws, rules or regulations of which Applicants are aware. If the Examiner intends to maintain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 based upon Applicants' failure to provide a mapping of claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cite the authority (law, rule, regulation, caselaw, etc.) for such a requirement and/or rejection.

Section 112 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons stated below.

The Office Action contends that:

"the specification discloses multiple paths and multiple signals. The Examiner has difficulty [sic] to map the claimed components/paths/signals to the specification. For example, Examiner fails to find support from the specification for the claimed first and second communication paths, first communication signal, and second communication signal. See Office Action, Page 3 (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully contend that the specification as originally filed entirely supports Claim 1. For example, the specification as originally filed includes the following paragraph:

In accordance with a particular embodiment of the present invention, a communication coupling is provided having a communication port with first and second paths of communication with a network component. A switch may be coupled with the first communication port. The switch includes a first position in which the communication port receives a first communication signal from the network component using the first path of communication and transmits a second communication signal to the network component using the second path of communication. The switch may also include a second position in which the communication port receives the first communication signal from the network component using the second communication path and transmits the second communication signal to the network component using the first communication path. *See Specification*, page 3 (emphasis added).

The Office Action alleges further that:

“[C]laim 1 recites [the] first communication signal being received and transmitted by the claimed coupling device. It is unclear where the specification explains the first communication signal can be both ‘receive’ and ‘transmit’ at the same time.” *See Office Action*, page 3.

Claim 1 is directed to a communication coupling that includes a communication port that is operable to communicate with a network component. The communication port has first and second paths of communication. The communication coupling also includes a switch. The switch has a first position in which the first communication port is operable to receive a first communication signal from the network component using the first path of communication. The switch also has a second position in which the first communication port is operable to receive the first communication signal from the network component using the second communication path. Claim 1 does not include a limitation that requires that the “first communication signal can be both “receive” and “transmit” at the same time, as suggested by the Office Action.

The Office Action asks “what are the claimed first and second communication signals recited in Claim 11.” *See Office Action*, page 3. As indicated in the specification as originally filed, “voice, video data, control and/or other communication signals (hereinafter, collectively “data”) are distributed between communications network 52 and communication system 36.” *See Specification*, page 7. Moreover, the specification as originally filed,

indicates that “such signals may include analog telephone signals, ADSL signals and Home PNA signals.” *See Specification*, page 13.

The Office Action asks “what are the claimed third and fourth communication paths recited in Claim 13?” Applicants respectfully contend that a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand what a communication path is, after reading the specification. Moreover, third and fourth communication paths are supported by the specification as originally filed. *See Specification*, page 32 (original claim 13).

The Office Action provides examples, “to facilitate the mapping of claims” and indicates that “the claims [are] to be filled in using reference numerals from figures.” *See Office Action*, page 4. As indicated above, Applicants respectfully contend that Applicants are not required to provide any such mapping under any laws, rules or regulations of which Applicants are aware. If the Examiner intends to maintain a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 based upon Applicants failure to provide a mapping of claims, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cite the authority (law, rule, regulation, caselaw, etc.) for such a requirement and subsequent rejection.

Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants believe no fee is due. However, should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. **02-0384** of **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

Respectfully submitted,

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